

Message Text

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14-12

ACTION AF-06

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O 301705Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3515

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 4496

FOR: PASS USDA FOR WILLIAM LOGAN

DOC FOR MEPD JOHN SANDS

AID FOR FRITZ GILBERT

EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAI, EAGR, US, IV

SUBJ: COOPERATION WITH IVORY COAST IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: A) ABIDJAN 4241 B) STATE 125119

1. AMBASSADOR HAD OPPORTUNITY MEET WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SAWADOGO EARLIER THIS WEEK TO FOLLOW UP ON NUMBER OF MATTERS, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL COOPERATION WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (REF A.), PARA 8 AND REF (B).

2. HE SAID THAT GOIC'S PRESENT INTENTION IS TO WORK OUT "TRIANGULAR CONTRACT" AMONG UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY AND ENSA FOR PROFESSOR AND EXPERTS FROM ILLINOIS AND MISSISSIPPI TO WORK IN IVORY COAST AND STUDENTS FROM HERE TO ATTEND SPECIAL COURSES AT THE TWO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. HE MENTIONED THAT MR. BOSSO WAS CURRENTLY IN USA FOR THIS PURPOSE, REPRESENTING HIM. HE SAID THAT, ONCE CONTRACT IS WORKED OUT, HE WILL APPROACH US FOR POSSIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

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3. IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT AS WELL THAT GOIC HAS SENT ONE STUDENT

TO SUMMER COURSE ON SOYA PRODUCTION AT MISSISSIPPI STATE. THEY HAD HOPED TO SEND TWO OTHERS TO ILLINOIS, BUT ILLINOIS' SUMMER COURSE WAS CANCELLED THIS FOR LACK OF STUDENTS IN THIS SPECIALTY.

4. AMBASSADOR ENQUIRED AS TO WHETHER MINISTER IS STILL CONSIDERING A CONTRACT WITH AN AMERICAN FIRM OR USDA FOR SOYA PRODUCTION FEASIBILITY STUDY. HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD NOT OCCUR BEFORE 1976, PENDING FURTHER ADVISORY ASSISTANCE FROM ILLINOIS AND MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITIES. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS LEANING TOWARD EMPLOYING MASI FOR SUCH A STUDY, BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THEIR EXPERIENCE AND PROPOSALS AND BECAUSE IT WAS LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD ALREADY BE ENGAGED HERE BEFORE THAT AS CONSULTING ENGINEERS ON FORTHCOMING SECOND SUGAR REFINERY PROJECT. THIS PRESUMABLY MEANS THAT MINISTER DOES NOT INTEND TO GO AHEAD WITH SOYPRO, BENDIX OR USDA PROPOSALS.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO REFTEL B), N'GUETTA BOSSO, AGRONOMIC ENGINEER, IS DIRECTOR OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AND HYACINTHE LEROUX, AGRONOMIC ENGINEER, IS DIRECTOR OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. THEY HOLD RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS AND ARE INFLUENTIAL IN DETERMINING IVORIAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

6. OFFICIAL NOTE FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE STRESSES SEMI-OFFICIAL NATURE OF VISIT TO RESEARCH REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL METHODS AND PROCESSES FROM PUBLIC, PARA-PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN IVORY COAST. N'GUETTA BOSSO PLANS CONTACT AMERICAN AND CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES TO REQUEST INFORMATION ON CORN PRODUCTION AND TO ORDER CORN SEEDS. BOSSO'S ITINERARY GIVEN AS NEW YORK, QUEBEC, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, WASHDC KANSAS, MISSISSIPPI, STARKVILLE, FLORIDA, MEXICO. HYACINTHE LEROUX PLANS VISIT CANADA TO STUDY POSSIBILITIES OF CANADIAN AID FOR IVORIAN AGRICULTURE.

7. WE HOPE THAT USEFUL MEETINGS CAN BE ARRANGED FOR THEM WITH USDA, CU/AF AND AID (PARTICULARLY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE THROUGH ENTENTE PROJECTS AND MAJOR CEREALS PROJECT). AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE UNIVERSITY CONTRACT POSSIBILITY WITH ERVEN LONG, FRITZ GILBERT AND OTHERS IN AID (WITH WILLIAM LOGAN OF USDA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT) ON FEBRUARY 18.

8. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FOLLOW-UP REPORT OF THEIR VISIT. SMITH

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